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MULTI-MEDIA ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS

The importance of environmental stewardship continues to grow. New laws and regulations are implemented every year which impact or constrain testing and training activities across the entire Department of Defense. As our nationwide base structure continues to decline, more pressure is being focused on White Sands Missile Range to provide environmentally compliant facilities and operations that can meet the Army's needs as it transforms itself into a lighter, more survivable and more lethal force.

White Sands will be ready to meet the Army's goals. To meet this challenge, we must raise our level of awareness concerning federal and state environmental statutes and regulations, and we must maintain compliance with those requirements. To this end we have established a permanent multi-media environmental compliance program and an accompanying environmental compliance inspection team within the Environment and Safety Directorate. This program and its implementing team will assist our directorates and tenant activities in meeting their environmental requirements. The inspection team will also continually assess the state of our compliance in the environmental arena so that we can identify where we need to concentrate our improvement efforts and resource expenditures to most effectively support our testing and training mission.

All activities on White Sands Missile Range will participate in the multi-media environmental compliance program, and will be subject to inspection and monitoring by the inspection team. This includes not only host activities and tenants but also support contractors and those customer activities and military units performing temporary duty activities on Range property.

We live in a complex environment with many eyes watching us. We are all stewards of this Range and we must individually and organizationally recognize the importance of ongoing environmental compliance to our mission success. Adverse actions against the Range by Federal and State environmental regulators can result in dollar fines against us, or in the formal establishment of limitations on our training and testing operations. Your participation in and support of the White Sands Missile Range Multi-Media Environmental Compliance Program is essential to assure that we can do our part in meeting the Army's goals in defense of our nation.

WILLIAM F. ENGEL
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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